**Behavioral Health Advisory Board**

**Approved Minutes**

Date: Friday, November 19, 2021

Time:12:00pm – 1:15pm

Location:

Virtual – Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97520288410>

Present: Hailey Barth, Janice Garceau, Barrett Flesh, Jessica Vierra, Michael Shults, Kara Cronin, Roger Olson, Stephanie Utzman, Christina Lee, Danielle MacBain, Holly Harris, Cameron Fischer, Robby Cervelli, Shannon Brister-Raugust, Patti Adair, & Stephanie Sahleen.

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| Agenda Items | | |
| 12:00PM - 12:15PM | * Welcome and introductions   Roger Olson, Board Chair, welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.   * Approval of the October 19, 2021 BHAB meeting minutes   Jessica Vierra motioned to approve the October 19, 2021 BHAB meeting minutes as written. Captain Michael Shults seconded. *The minutes were approved by consensus.*   * December BHAB Meeting: Canceled   Due to the holidays and a clinical supervision training for DCHS behavioral health staff, the December 2021 BHAB meeting has been cancelled. The group will reconvene in 2022.  Janice Garceau shared the following updates with the group:   * There are large Measure 110 funding packages becoming available in Central Oregon. The ask includes:   + Setting up a 24/7 behavioral health “resource network”, which is a place for people struggling with addiction and other mental health needs to connect with peers, mental health professionals, and treatment   + Funding for peers to focus on Narcan distribution   + Some funds for a youth drop-in center specific for outreach and engagement for youth struggling with substance use disorders (SUDs)   + Small footprint of funds will be dedicated for a shelter for the homeless population   + The application for these funds is regional and will be submitted by BestCare * OHA released an RFP for funding focused on housing, specifically for residential treatment options for youth and adults. * Senator Ron Wyden toured the Deschutes County Stabilization Center (DCSC) during his most recent visit to Central Oregon. He is recognizing the facility nationally as a success   Michael Shults asked if DCHS has a dedicated grant writer, and noted the agency should start getting prepared to apply for available funds. Janice noted that community partners are already identified for available funds, and shared although there is no dedicated grant writer at DCHS, the agency has had much success with program managers and other “boots on the ground” staff writing and being awarded competitive grants.  Cameron Fischer asked where Central Oregon sends children in crisis if there are no residential treatment facilities available in the area. Janice responded children are sent to the community, and unfortunately have to spend time in the psychiatric emergency services (PES) unit at St. Charles. She noted locally there are a number of residential treatment beds, but at this time they are completely full.  Kara Cronin noted DCHS is not normally able to fill any residential treatment beds with people in the community as all occupants are coming from the State Hospital or they are Aid and Assist clients. She noted if someone is not able to get into a residential treatment facility, DCHS does their best to support them with intensive mental health services.  Cameron asked where DCHS places adults who need residential treatment and have nowhere else to go. Janice said the State Hospital only has beds for Aid and Assist clients, not those who are civilly committed. She explained by law DCHS is required to place all clients coming out of the State Hospital, leaving no treatment beds for others who may be civilly committed.  Kara noted DCHS is advocating for the tri-county area to set up another residential treatment facility to build capacity. Roger commented this phenomenon of a lack of treatment facilities is a statewide problem, and a judge has sued the State Hospital for contempt.  Janice commented that people are losing their lives and living in conditions of deep suffering. She asked if anyone on the BHAB is in a position to advocate for the human beings impacted by our community not having local resources, the legislature is looking at unmet mental health needs as critical gaps.  Board Announcements:   * Resignation – Kristin Gyford * There are 2 BHAB membership openings. 3 candidates will be interviewed on 12/3. All BHAB members are welcomed to participate on the interview panel.   ACTION: Hailey to send Cameron Fischer the interview panel details. | Roger Olson |
| 12:15 – 1:15PM | * Board Development   + Standing committee formation   + BHAB goals   Roger shared he is in the process of analyzing what the BHAB does, future goals of the Board, and changes to the bylaws as they are over 7 years old. He asked BHAB members to think about what they do with the information learned on the Board, specifically who benefits from their participation.  Roger questioned if this group should be more involved in budget decisions at DCHS, including grant and policy decisions. Jessica noted she is not quite sure that is within the scope of the BHAB, but the Board can make recommendations, support, and be advocates. Holly Harris added that the grant approval process can logistically be very tricky, especially with tight deadlines and needing to present to the Board of County Commissioners. She commented she is worried about adding another layer.  Commissioner Adair shared she has been studying the history of Central Oregon in regards to residential treatment beds, and Deschutes County only has 151 available. She stated this is inadequate, and has been thinking about the region’s homeless population. Commissioner Adair toured the near empty Deer Ridge Correctional Institute building in Madras in August 2021, and shared it has medical buildings with treatment rooms. She commented that it took 3 years to get the Veteran’s Village up and running, and noted change takes a long time to enact. Commissioner Adair stated that Deer Ridge is a resource the region could utilize immediately for treatment beds, and shared OHA added over 50 additional beds in Oregon, but none in Central Oregon. Commissioner Adair asked for the BHAB’s support in utilizing Deer Ridge and asked for suggestions and input.  Cameron Fischer thanked Commissioner Adair and agreed that something has to give regarding how long it takes to make meaningful changes. She noted she toured Deer Ridge as well and said although it is beautiful, she thinks of family members that face severe mental health struggles and is worried about the association of being on the grounds of a prison when someone is facing mental health issues or homelessness. Cameron said when she worked at Trillium there was trauma caused to children who were placed there who were not affiliated with the juvenile justice system.  Michael Shults noted he has navigated this issue, and said the region needs to think outside the box and there are really no options for those with severe mental health struggles. He said it is far easier for people to get help in the mental health system than if they try to get help by coming to jail. Michael said when someone comes into Deschutes County custody under a small misdemeanor charge, they are usually out in 24 hours. He said those with mental health issues will stay in the system until they are transferred to a hospital or mental health services. Michael said he agrees with Cameron somewhat, but added the region needs to make the available space work as there are no other options.  Robby Cervelli said the reason he joined the BHAB was to be a representative for those struggling with addiction, and shared Narcotics Anonymous (NA) materials are available at the Deer Ridge Facility. He said he needs to contact the Central Oregon NA chapter to discuss advocacy. Robby said that he thinks a certain portion of people who are tied into these systems are able to reach a point where they can and probably will be okay with a massive support group like AA, NA, or others. Robby said he has seen a large amount of people leaving NA during COVID-19 and not returning, and with the region growing in population we need to adapt to meet the needs of a more diverse population with health problems. He questioned if a facility is not supposed to be used for something, why not make it actually useful to the population in need? Robby said his purpose on the BHAB is to help relieve the system and would like to go forward with getting NA/AA literature into some of these facilities if allowed.  Stephanie Sahleen said she agrees with Cameron’s perspective about being trauma informed and not causing additional harm, but is in support of utilizing the available space at Deer Ridge. She added in many of the meetings she attends people are discussing the huge problem with lack of beds, but it always comes down to funding. Stephanie shared she and Roger met with Janice and discussed what the BHAB is actually able to do, the group’s roles, and its function moving forward. She said this will help guide subcommittees, and these groups can help enact meaningful change in the community then report back to the main group. Stephanie said the BHAB needs to confirm what they can and cant do, specially around advocacy at the legislative level.  Commissioner Adair said Deschutes County was awarded two judges while no other areas in the state were. She said this was because of intense advocacy at the state level, and pointed out this work really does make a difference.  Danielle MacBain pointed out that the BHAB Bylaws give guidelines on what the group can do, and said they don’t need to micromanage, but are allowed to provide feedback, support, and advocate to the County Commissioners. She added that her child has received services through a day program at Trillium and agrees the region needs to be creative about expanding services. She noted that Deer Ridge might be a great thing for the BHAB to help move things forward on.  Jessica said she has been thinking about people who have existing trauma then going into a place that feels like a prison. She shared while working in Sacramento there was a residential facility that burned down and clients had to move to another facility, and everyone agreed it was better than being homeless. Jessica said the prison has things to consider around traumatizing, but the region also needs to take a look at what can be done immediately.  Christina Lee added that the BHAB needs to ensure they connect whatever decisions are made to other things happening in the community around this issue so progress remains streamlined and organized. She added the Board needs to work around honing in on their identity and function.  Roger reminded the group they will not be meeting again until January 2022 and said he may reach out to individual members for additional thoughts. He asked the group to think about:   * What should we be doing more of? * What should we not be doing? * How should subcommittees be organized? * What does subcommittee function look like to you?   Stephanie Sahleen suggested utilizing what is already going on in the community regarding mental health efforts so work is not duplicated.  Jessica proposed that in January the meeting is focused on looking at the BHAB bylaws as a group and determine Board values, functions, mission, and determining actual tasks. The group agreed. | All |